(a) whether Government have taken any ıal decision for rationalising fertilizer price ·ucture;

(b) if so, whether the increase of prices is med at discouraging farmers from ıicriminate use of chemicals;

(c) whether Government are also nsidering to enhance the prices of certain emicals;

(d) whether the Government are confident ıt new formula will aim at bringing down : per unit cost of NPK;

(e) whether Rs. 500 crore earmarked for tilizer subsidy crossed the figure of Rs. 760 ıre; and

(f) what were the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) ea is the only fertilizer at present under tutory price control and is sold at a uniform e of Rs. 3320 per tonne throughout the ıntry. All phosphatic and potassic fertilisers ·e been decontrolled and the Government has n giving a concession on their sale to the ners to encourage consumption.

(c) Department of chemicals & Petro-micals have informed that presently the :es of chemicals are not monitored and ılated by the Government.

(d) Hon'ble Member is perhaps referrign to scheme of 'Concessional sale of decontrolled ilizers to the farmers'. The scheme is ctive from Rabi season 1992-93. The rates :oncession under the scheme have been anced w.e.f. 6.7.1996 as under:—

Fertilizer		(Rate per tonne)
DAP (Indigenous)	:	Rs. 3000/-
DAP (Imported)	:	Rs. 1500/-
MOP	:	Rs. 1500/-
SSP :	:	Rs. 500/-
omplexes	:	From Rs. 1304 to 2633 per tonne depending upon their P & K contents.

The States have been asked to ensure that benefit of the concession is fully passed on e farmers.

(e) The provision of Rs. 500 crores for the financial year 1995-96 was fully utilised. However, the bills for that year are still being received and payments are made from the provision made for the year 1996-97.

(f) It is because of increase in consumption of fertilizers covered under the scheme.

Construction and Upgradation of Railway Projects in Orissa

628. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to take up the construction and upgradation of some Railway projects in Orissa with Japanese assistance;

(b) if so, what are these Railway projects;

(c) the cost of these projects and the fund expected to be obtained from which Japanese company for implementing those projects; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The possibility of obtaining assistance from the Exim Bank of Japan is being explored.

(b) The projects are Daitari-Banspani and Talcher Sambalpur.

(c) and (d) The cost of the projects are

Rs. 401 crores and Rs. 348 crores respectively. The balance requirements for which efforts are being made to obtain funds from this Bank is Rs. 400 crores and Rs. 150 crores respectively.

Negative Trend of AMS

629. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether product Specific Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) during the reference period 1986-89 remained highly negative amounting to Rs. 19,000/- crores;

(b) whether this figure when calculated for the year 1995 has doubled to more than Rs. 48,000 crores;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to offset this negative AMS to agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The average product specific Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) during the base period i.e. 1980-89 was about Rs. minus 24,442.20 crores and the non-product specific AMS was estimated at Rs. 4581.40 crores and the total AMS was, therefore, minus Rs. 19,860.00 crores.

(b) The AMS was calculated for the reference period of 1986-89 only, as required under the GATT.

(c) Not relevant.

(d) The AMS was calculated for the base period i.e. 1986-89. Since the AMS for the base period was negative, India did not have to take any reduction commitment.

Telephone Service for providing reservation status

630. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have introduced some telephone service in Delhi and outside providing reservation status to passengers on waiting list;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a telephone service has also been introduced in Delhi and outside providing information on arrivals and departures of all trains either originating or passing from Delhi/ New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof, for Delhi and outside;

(e) telephone service if any, introduced by railway in Delhi and outside for providing information to passengers about the train numbers, class and dates for which confirmed reservation is available including waiting status; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Computerised Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has been installed for Delhi Area, Mumbai, Vijayawada, Madras, Bangalore and Calcutta for answering telephonic enquiries relating to reservation status. In this System, there is a direct interface with the computerised system and the person making enquiry is guided and prompted to provide relevant details of the query to the system to enable it to provide the requisite reply. Also, at all important principal reservation/enquiry offices necessary information sought by public on phone is given by the Enquiry Clerks manning telephones.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The train arrival and departure information is given by:

(i) the IVRS service which gives computer generated response. This is available at Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Visakhapatinam, Raipur, Chakradharpur and Rourkela,

(ii) the pre-tape recorded information system; and

(iii) Enquiry Clerks on telephone.

(e) and (f) Facilities are available at all major stations for answering such reservation related enquiries on telephones manned by Enquiry Clerks. Besides, IVRS has been installed on an experimental basis for answering such enquiries at Madras and Bangalore.

Production of Pulses

631. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) wether it is a fact that production of pulses in the country is much less as compared to its demand;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefore;

(c) whether Government have formulated any long-term policy to increase the production of pulses in the country;

(d) if so, what are the full details thereof and if not, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(e) what necessary and concrete measures are being taken by Government to curb the rising price of pluses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b)